

MINUTES
Town of North
December 12, 2005
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the Council meeting to order and 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Binyard, Drew, and Gleaton. Mrs. Lane was excused. Also in attendance were Administrator Ott, Chief Fallaw, and Town Clerk, Beth Kincaid.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors, and commented this was the first meeting at our new time of 7:00 p.m. He called on Mr. Ott to introduce the Town's newly selected attorney, Stanley Myers, and asked Mr. Myers to say a few words.

Public Presentation:

Mr. Ott introduced Mr. Myers, a graduate of Swansea High School and the Citadel, and a practicing attorney with the law firm of Moore, Taylor and Thomas. He also serves as Counsel to the Towns of Swansea and South Congaree. Mr. Myers thanked Council for selecting him as the Town's attorney. He pledged to keep the lines of communication open and be available as needed.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Ott reported the following: 150 penalties for November, 4 cut-off's which were cut-back on, and 4 new meters. Eleven meters were checked. Repairs were made to sewer line connections on 321 and repairs made to the well at Wolf-Crossing. Mr. Hutto began work on the sewer extension on Hwy 178 to Toshiba Court, and expects to complete the project within the next few weeks. Upon completion, we will apply to DHEC for inspection and approval to open the lines. There were no DHEC violations for November. The two aerators that were down are back up and operational.

The men have also patched holes under the streets on Blossom and Stafford, cut trees along the railroad track.

Mr. Ott advised Council Dale Weatherford was out with a broken leg, and not expected to return until after Christmas. He will be on light duty for a few weeks after his return.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reported a reduction in Group A offenses, which usually are higher during the holiday season. He attributed the decrease to the good job officers are doing. Officer generated calls were 89% for the month of November. There was a total of 88 Group A, B and C offenses. There were 36 traffic violations of which 12 were speeding, and 4 underage possession of alcohol charges. Four arrests were made and 12 warrants served in the last week-and-a-half. The department continues to investigate and has received good leads in the arson/assault case. Officers worked 513.5 hours and 26.5 reserve hours. Thirty-three hours were spent in court and 35 hours in training.

Fallaw advised Council that the end of the 90-day warning period for ordinances on cleaning up vacant lots and abandoned vehicles is coming up. Since violation of the ordinance is a criminal offense, individuals not in compliance will be issued a citation, which carries a \$500 fine. Added assessments will be \$1087.50 per day per violation, which would add up to over \$7,000 in a week. He said property owners need to be aware of this. Mr. Gleaton asked if the fines would be enforced and Fallaw assured him they would. There was discussion regarding the demolition companies researched that would perform clean-ups of properties. Some residents reported when contacted, the companies weren't available for months to do the work. Property owners expressed concern about not being able to get the work done.

Fallaw commended citizen Doyle Carson for notifying the police about an elderly couple broken who had run out of gas on the curve of a busy road. It turns out this was a couple who had been reported missing in Columbus, Georgia. Thanks to Mr. Carson's concern, Sgt. Herlong went to the couple's aid and was able to contact their relatives and get them safely back home.

Councilman Drew asked if there is anything that could be done about the tractor trailer rigs being parked in the town square parking lot. They park long-ways and take up a lot of parking and are left there sometimes over a

period of days. Fallaw said the ordinance says a vehicle is considered abandoned only if it is left for a period of 7 days. Ott suggested if individual rig owners are talked to, we may get desired results. Fallaw said police would talk with the drivers.

Old Business:

- Mayor Jeffcoat reviewed the November financial statement.
- Highway 321 project update - no work will be done on the other side of Hwy. 178 until after the first of the year. The other side of the road should be completed over the next six weeks. The final phase (Main Street business side) will begin after this.
- Ott reminded everyone the Rural Water Association poster contest deadline is February. Additional information can be obtained at Town Hall.
- The Town-sponsored self-defense class for women will be held Tuesday, January 10 & January 17 and Thursday, January 12 and January 19. The instructor is Phil Orr and he is teaching the classes gratis. Sign up is at Town Hall.
- Town Clock - There was discussion about where the clock would be placed in the town.

New Business:

- The Town 2006 holiday schedule is available.
- The Community of Character trait for December is "Generosity" which is the ideal trait for December.

Jeffcoat called for any public comments.

Mr. Drew wanted to remind everyone he was bringing Santa back on the fire truck. He has really enjoyed doing this each year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Bruce Buckheister commented on the need for residences to have 911 addresses for first responders.

The next Town Council meeting will be held, Monday, January, 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kincaid

APPROVED

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Deborah Cook: _____

Harriet Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____